Claims

[c1]   A method of providing program information for a future television program to a television system through a future programming preview, said method comprising the steps of:

creating an identifying code, said identifying code being unique to identify said future television program; and

broadcasting said identifying code simultaneously with said future programming preview.

[c2]   A method as claimed in Claim 1 wherein said identifying code contains timing information relating to said future television program.

[c3]   A method as claimed in Claim 1 wherein said identifying code contains broadcast channel information relating to said future television program.

[c4]   A method as claimed in Claim 1 wherein said identifying code contains program summary information for said future television program.

[c5]   A method as claimed in Claim 1 wherein said identifying code is a unique Uniform Resource Locator identifier.

[c6]   A method as claimed in Claim 1 wherein said identifying code is a unique Uniform Resource Identifier.

[c7]   A method as claimed in Claim 1 wherein the step of broadcasting said identifying code simultaneously with said future programming preview further includes the step of encoding said identifying code.

[c8]   A method as claimed in Claim 1 wherein the step of broadcasting said identifying code simultaneously with said future programming preview further includes the step of embedding said identifying code within said future programming preview.

[c9]

A method of selecting a future television program broadcast event and relaying the future television broadcast information to a television system through the use of an identifying code broadcasted with a future television event

programming preview, said method comprising the steps of:

selecting said future television event programming preview with a
selecting means while said future television event programming preview
is being viewed by a user;

reading said identifying code broadcasted with said future television
event programming preview;

storing said identifying code within said television system; and

selecting a future reminder function.

[c10]   A method as claimed in Claim 9 wherein said selecting means is a button on a
remote control, said remote control having the ability to send a signal to said
television system.

[c11]   A method as claimed in Claim 9 wherein said selecting means is a means of
using speech recognition to audibly select said future television event
programming preview with human speech.

[c12]   A method as claimed in Claim 9 wherein said selecting means is an input means
for a computer system.

[c13]   A method as claimed in Claim 9 wherein said future reminder function is a
recording means.

[c14]   A method as claimed in Claim 13 wherein said recording means is an analog
recording system.

[c15]   A method as claimed in Claim 13 wherein said recording means is a digital
recording system.

[c16]   A method as claimed in Claim 9 wherein said future reminder function is a
reminding means.

[c17]   A method as claimed in Claim 16 wherein said reminding means is an electronic
mail message.

[c18]   A method as claimed in Claim 16 wherein said reminding means is a message
displayed on said television system.

[c19]   A method as claimed in Claim 16 wherein said reminding means is a message sent to a paging system.

[c20]   A method as claimed in Claim 16 wherein said reminding means is a means to automatically switch said television system to said future television program broadcast event.

[c21]   A method as claimed in Claim 9 wherein the step of selecting a future reminder function can be a predetermined default.